

## CLAIMS

1. A ternary alloy of silver, copper and germanium containing from more than 93.5 wt% to 95.5 wt% Ag, from 0.5 to 3 wt% Ge, 1-40 ppm of B, optionally  
5 0.5 wt % of any of Zn, Cd and Sn, optionally 0.1-1 wt % Si, and the remainder, apart from impurities copper, wherein the weight ratio of Cu to Ge is from 4:1 to 3:1.
2. The alloy of claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of Cu to Ge is about 3.5:1.
- 10 3. The alloy of claim 1 or 2, containing from 1.0 to 1.5 wt% Ge.
4. The alloy of claim 3, containing about 94.5 wt% Ag, about 4.3 wt% Cu and about 1.2 wt% Ge.
- 15 5. The alloy of any preceding claim, containing 5-20 ppm of boron.
6. A finished or semi-finished shaped article of the alloy of any preceding claim.
- 20 7. The article of claim 6, which is formed by casting.
8. The article of claim 6, which is at least partly produced from sheet or strip.
- 25 9. The article of claim 6, 7 or 8 surface treated with an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide.
10. The article of claim 9, wherein the alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide has C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl groups.
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11. The article of claim 9, wherein the alkanethiol or alkylthioglycolate is selected from stearyl mercaptan, cetyl mercaptan (octadecyl mercaptan), stearyl thioglycollate and cetyl thioglycollate.